regard to payments made by the State Government is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

ISI infiltration in armed forces

*209. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the possibility and the extent of Pakistan's ISI infiltration into the Indian armed forces and the nature of their espionage activities being carried out;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some cases of cultivation of low/medium level personnel employed in some defence establishments by Pakistan ISI sources have come to notice. In these cases, personnel were found to be passing military information of general nature. Eleven personnel involved in such cases were arrested in 1997.

(c) The persons arrested are being tried as per law or proceeded against departmentally.

Appropriate and elaborate measures exist to detect and neutralise enemy infiltration into the Armed Forces and to prevent espionage activities. These measures are also reviewed from time to time.

Custodial Deaths in Tamil Nadu

*210. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of custodial deaths reported from the State of Tamil Nadu since July, 1996, till date;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to check the custodial deaths; and

(c) the total number of representations received by the National Human Rights Commission in the above matter during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) According to information received from the Government of Tamil Nadu, there were 24 deaths in police custody in the State during the period July'96 to May'98.

(b) The State Government has reported that the directives issued by the Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Crl.) No. 539 of 1986 (Shri D.K. Basu versus State of West Bengal) with Writ Petition (Crl.) No. 592 of 1987 (Ashok K. Johri versus. State of U.P.) are being followed. The requirements laid down by the Supreme Court of India, which are to be followed in all cases of arrest or detention, have been given wide publicity through Doordarshan, All India Radio and local newspapers to educate the general public in this regard. Copies of the requirements have also been sent to all the Police Station in Tamil Nadu by the Director General of Police. These requirements include, inter alia, preparation of a memo of arrest at the time of arrest by the police officer carrying out the arrest which shall be attested by at least one witness, intimation of arrest to a friend/relative, etc. of the person arrested, an entry in the diary at the place of detention regarding the arrest of the person and medical examination of the person arrested by a trained doctor every 48 hours.

(c) Ten representations were received by the National Human Rights Commission in regard to custodial deaths in Tamil Nadu during the period 1.4.1997 to 30.4.1998. Information in regard to custodial deaths for the earlier period is not readily available. Prior to 1.4.1997, the representations received regarding custodial deaths were being taken under the Head "Police Atrocities".